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COUNTRY Austria

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Soviet Efforts to Recruit Ex-Officers in Western Austria

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

31 July 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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SOURCE  
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1. Between 17 and 22 April 1950, Dr. Joklik, (fnu), former provincial secretary of the VdU in Linz, was visited by an individual identifying himself as former SS Major Steyrer, (fnu), from Vienna. Dr. Slavik, deputy chairman of the National League, attempted to obtain Joklik's assistance in recruiting ex-officers of the Wehrmacht and the SS. \* He stated that eventual occupation of Europe by the Soviets must be considered inevitable. Furthermore comparison of the German policy of the U.S.S.R. with that of the Western Powers easily reveals the superiority of the former. Therefore former German officers should seek a better future for themselves and their people by cooperating with the U.S.S.R. On orders of Dr. Slavik, SS Major Steyrer toured the western provinces of Austria attempting to build up cells of ex-officers who, in groups of five, are to go to the Soviet Zone of Germany, where, together with former German officers, they will attend military refresher courses. Upon completion of the training course, the officers are to return to Western Austria and remain prepared to effect immediate activation of military units in case of a Soviet invasion. Steyrer mentioned that present plans provide for the recruitment of 400 ex-officers in Western Austria. Dr. Joklik maintained an attitude of indifference toward Steyrer's offer and insisted on being given time for reflection.
2. A conference held in Linz in early May 1950, for the purpose of discussing prospects for the recruitment of ex-officers of the Wehrmacht and the SS in Upper Austria was attended by 10 delegates from Upper Austria, including VdU functionary Culik, (fnu) from Linz. It was agreed to apply the recruiting program to all of Austria and to include not only ex-officers but also former regular NCOs. It was also planned to contact in Bad Ischl, Communist Party functionary Plieseis, (fnu) of Bad Ischl, head of the Communist Party action group "Salzkammergut", for information on former officers and NCOs suitable for recruitment.

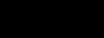

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3. Discussions on the above subject have taken place between Plieseis and Radical Socialist functionary Gaiswinkler, (fnu). The latter, together with a Vienna functionary, intends to call upon prospective recruits in several towns of Upper Austria. It is said that 40 former officers and NCOs were recruited in Upper Austria as of the end of May 1950.\*

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